

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for keeping files current for use in a computer system coupled to a network, comprising the steps of:

evaluating a downloaded file from a source within said network to determine if a source identifier is present in said downloaded file;

checking said source periodically utilizing said source identifier to determine if a newer version of said downloaded file exists; and

replacing, in response to the presence of said newer version of said downloaded file, said downloaded file with said newer version.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said step of evaluating further includes the step of attaching, in response to said source identifier not present, a source descriptor to said downloaded file.

3. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of replacing said downloaded file includes the steps of:

providing an indication to a user that said newer version of said file exists;

prompting said user to replace said downloaded file with said newer version; and

replacing, in response to said user requesting said newer version, said downloaded file with said newer version.

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4. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said source identifier is located in the extended attribute of said downloaded file.

5. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said downloaded file is selected from the group consisting of PDF and ZIP files.

6. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said source identifier is an uniform resource locator (URL).

7. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of checking said source periodically includes defining a time interval.

8. The method as recited in Claim 7 wherein said time interval is user defined.

9. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of checking said source is whenever said downloaded file is opened.

10. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said step of checking said source is initiated by a user.

11. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said network is a packet network.

1 12. A computer system for use in a network environment,
2 comprising:

3 a processor;

4 an update manager coupled to said processor,
5 including:

6 means for evaluating a downloaded file from a
7 source within said network to determine if a source
8 identifier is present in said downloaded file;

9 means for checking said source periodically
10 utilizing said source identifier to determine if a
11 newer version of said downloaded file exists; and

12 means for replacing, in response to the
13 presence of a newer version of said downloaded file, said
14 downloaded file with said newer version.

15 13. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein
16 said means for evaluating further includes means for
17 attaching, in response to said source identifier not
18 present, a source descriptor to said downloaded file.

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1 14. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein
2 said means for replacing said downloaded file includes:

3 means for providing an indication to a user that
4 said newer version of said file exists;

5 means for prompting said user to replace said
6 downloaded file with said newer version; and

7 means for replacing, in response to said user
8 requesting said newer version, said downloaded file with
9 said newer version.

1 15. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein
2 said source identifier is located in the extended
3 attribute of said downloaded file.

4 16. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein
5 said downloaded file is selected from the group
6 consisting of PDF and ZIP files.

7 17. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein
8 said source identifier is an uniform resource locator
9 (URL).

1 18. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein
2 said means for checking said source periodically includes
3 defining a time interval.

4 19. The computer system as recited in Claim 18 wherein
5 said time interval is user defined.

6 20. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein
7 said means for checking said source is whenever said
8 downloaded file is opened.
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1 21. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein
2 said means for checking said source is initiated by a
3 user.

1 22. The computer system as recited in Claim 12 wherein
2 said network is a packet network.

1 23. A computer program product comprising:

2 a computer-readable medium having stored thereon
3 computer executable instructions for implementing a
4 method for keeping files current for use in a computer
5 system coupled to a network, said computer executable
6 instructions when executed, perform the steps of:

7 evaluating a downloaded file from a source
8 within said network to determine if a source identifier
9 is present in said downloaded file;

10 checking said source periodically utilizing
11 said source identifier to determine if a newer version of
12 said downloaded file exists; and

13 replacing, in response to the presence of said
14 newer version of said downloaded file, said downloaded
15 file with said newer version.

1 24. The computer program product as recited in Claim 23
2 wherein said step of evaluating further includes the step
3 of attaching, in response to said source identifier not
4 present, a source descriptor to said downloaded file.

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1 25. The computer program product as recited in Claim 23
2 wherein said step of replacing said downloaded file
3 includes the steps of:

4 providing an indication to a user that said newer
5 version of said file exists;

6 prompting said user to replace said downloaded file
7 with said newer version; and

8 replacing, in response to said user requesting said
9 newer version, said downloaded file with said newer
10 version.

1 26. The computer program product as recited in Claim 23
2 wherein said source identifier is located in the extended
3 attribute of said downloaded file.

1 27. The computer program product as recited in Claim 23
2 wherein said downloaded file is selected from the group
3 consisting of PDF and ZIP files.

1 28. The computer program product as recited in Claim 23
2 wherein said source identifier is an uniform resource
3 locator (URL).

1 29. The computer program product as recited in Claim 23
2 wherein said step of checking said source periodically
3 includes defining a time interval.

1 30. The computer program product as recited in Claim 29
2 wherein said time interval is user defined.

1 31. The computer program product as recited in claim 23
2 wherein said step of checking said URL is whenever said
3 downloaded file is opened.

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1 32. The computer program product as recited in Claim 23
2 wherein said step of checking is initiated by a user.

1 33. The computer program product as recited in Claim 23
2 wherein said network is a packet network.

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